



EASTER

MINI - BIBLE STUDY

THE GOAL OF THIS STUDY

This is a simple resources to help you remember the true meaning of Easter and align your heart with God during this season.

WHAT THIS MEANS

- ORTHODOXY -

Right orthodoxy (good, sound doctrine/theology about your faith) is imperative in Christianity. Knowing the truth about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is what the entire Christian faith hinges upon.

- ORTHOPRAXY -

Right orthopraxy (good, correct action resulting from doctrine) is imperative in Christianity. And the confidence knowledge brings is incomplete without the joy experienced through applying it.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

You can complete this study in one day, or read through each session over five days. The key is to take your time, read through the scripture, pray before you start and at the end.



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MATTHEW

READ MATTHEW 27 & 28

QUICK CONTEXT: The goal of Matthew is to show that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah God had promised and the world had been waiting on. Matthew (or Levi) was a former Jewish tax collector and disciple of Jesus.

GO DEEPER

1. In Matthew 27:29 & 41, how do two very different groups respond to Jesus?
2. How does Jesus react in both situations? How can we adjust to be like Him?
3. What is one thing that “hit different” in chapter 27 verses 57-66? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to focus on and how He wants you to respond.
4. Think back to the two groups from #1. How did they react to the empty tomb?
5. What did Jesus tell His disciples about His authority? How do we live like it is true?

Responding in humility to the Lord is extremely difficult for human beings. This account gives us examples of both a religious group and pagan group refusing to repent when presented with unbelievable evidence for the reality of Jesus being the Son of God and Savior. We - as human beings, also - are still prone to say, “if God would ____ then I would trust Him.” But let’s remember He has already given us an empty tomb.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you a situation you are trying to control and manipulate instead of trusting God. What is a verse you can apply to this situation?



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MARK

READ MARK 15 & 16

QUICK CONTEXT: Most scholars agree Mark was written by John Mark, Peter's disciple around 53-55 AD. It is a synoptic gospel, so there is a lot of overlap with the accounts found in Matthew and Luke.

GO DEEPER

1. What was Pilate's reaction to both Jesus and the crowd and chief priests?
2. How can we avoid responding like Pilate to both Jesus and people?
3. What is one thing that "hit different" in chapter 15 verses 21-38? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to focus on and how He wants you to respond.
4. How did Mary, Mary, and Salome's day turn out differently than they planned?
5. Why did Jesus rebuke his disciples? Where is Jesus now and why is it significant?

In chapter 16, the women bought spices to use for Jesus' dead body but God had other plans. They brought their love and obedience to Jesus the best way they knew how and in turn were given a bigger blessing than they imagined. What if the women had been frustrated and said, "What?! God, I thought you wanted me to use these spices a specific way!" They would have missed out on the resurrection!

TAKE IT FURTHER

Are you holding on to any "spices" when Jesus is wanting to do a new thing?



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LUKE

READ LUKE 23 & 24

QUICK CONTEXT: Luke was a physician who assisted Paul and had Gentiles as his target readers. This may explain why his genealogy of Jesus traces back to Adam, yet Matthew (Jewish audience) begins with Abraham.

GO DEEPER

1. How did Herod react to and interact with Jesus after Pilate sent Jesus to Herod?
2. How did Josph of Arimathea react to and interact with Jesus upon His death?
3. What is one thing that “hit different” in chapter 24 verses 1-12? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to focus on and how He wants you to respond.
4. How did Cleopas respond when Jesus asked what they were arguing about?
5. They knew the events but still lacked. What does Jesus do and say in 24:44-49?

King Herod and Josph of Arimathea were both men of relative authority in Jerusalem when Jesus was killed. Both were interested in Jesus, yet responded to Him differently. One used their position to serve their own interest, while the other used it to serve God. You may not have the power these men did, but you do have some amount of influence in your circle or people.

TAKE IT FURTHER

How can you use your influence in a way that serves God rather than yourself this week?



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JOHN

READ JOHN 19, 20 & 21

QUICK CONTEXT: The author of John is sometimes mistaken for John the Baptist, but he was killed by Herod prior to Jesus even dying. This John is one of Jesus's 12 disciples and a part of Jesus's inner circle. John calls himself the one Jesus loves.

GO DEEPER

1. In chapter 19, why did the Jews say Jesus had to die? Why did he really have to?
2. Chapter 20 records Jesus's interaction with three different people/groups. Pick one to summarize. Why was that one most meaningful to you?
3. What is one thing that "hit different" in chapter 20 verses 1-18? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to focus on and how He wants you to respond.
4. What does Jesus ask Peter 3 times? How does Jesus respond to Peter's answers?
5. How is John's ending unique from the other Gospels? How does this turn your affection for Jesus?

Jesus predicted Peter would deny him three times. Then, in chapter 18, His prophecy comes true. Their interaction in chapter 21 is redemption and reconciliation for their relationship - Jesus reminds Peter what really matters.

TAKE IT FURTHER

What area are you tempted to lead out of a love for something other than an all consuming love for Jesus?



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REFLECTION

YOU DID IT!

You read all four Gospel accounts of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. I hope you find your heart aligned and ready for the Easter season.

ORTHODOXY REFLECTION

Did you notice anything new during this mini-study about the three most important days in human history?

ORTHOPRAXY REFLECTION

How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ practically change your life? Try to list both daily practices and major life decisions/overall direction.

BIG NEXT STEP: Tell someone how Jesus saved you. Share your story!